



## 2019 Greater Pentwater Community Survey - December 12, 2019

- 2,649 people live in zip code 49449. 718 people responded to the survey, for a 27% participation rate. 55% were women; 38 percent were men.
- Most respondents feel that area-quality of life has remained unchanged over the last five years, but more people feel it has improved than declined.
- Pentwater is a seasonal place, with the lowest number of people in Feb; highest in July.
- Bike trails are strongly supported by area residents, especially for the sake of tourism.
- By a wide margin, most respondents feel that housing is too expensive where they live.
- Roads are an issue for most respondents with expectations lagging significantly behind actual road conditions by nearly 40 points. Most aren't certain they would pay more for better roads but there.
- Most feel that a destination restaurant would be the best use of land if/when it becomes available. *Senior housing* was a distant second, followed by a *destination hotel*.
- Biggest issues facing Pentwater:
  - #1 lack of essential services;
  - #2 too many short-term rentals;
  - #3 inadequate housing choices;
  - #4 lack of affordable housing; and,
  - #5 short season for retailers.
- There was near unanimity about the desirability of collaboration on the part of the Village of Pentwater, Pentwater Township and Pentwater School:
  - #1 When it makes sense, i.e. water, sewer, roads, etc.;
  - #2 long-term joint planning on prioritized projects;
  - #3 continued joint planning to reduce redundancy;
  - #4 coordination to address housing shortages; and,
  - #5 continued co-location by the Village and Township.
- By a sizeable margin, streets and sidewalks were the favorite response to the question on which improvements the community should undertake, followed by drainage projects, public facilities, park improvements, water system improvements, public landscaping improvements and sewer improvements.





- Lack of parking facilities was the top reason cited by survey takers for Pentwater traffic problems. Poor bicycle and transit options were the second and third reasons given.
- Eighty-seven percent of respondents said Pentwater infrastructure is average or above. Only 12 percent feel it's below average.
- Eighty-eight percent of respondents have no disabilities. Of those that do, in order, *mobility, hearing and sight* are the top three with *mobility* the greatest disability by a significant margin.
- Sixty-seven percent of residents have no children in Pentwater School, 19 percent send their children to Pentwater School, with 10.3% sending their children to other schools, in no particular order.
- Survey respondents are well satisfied with Pentwater School:
  - #1 Curriculum offerings;
  - #2 the number of students that go on to college;
  - #3 the leadership of Dr. Karaptian;
  - #4 teaching staff;
  - #5 graduation rate; and,
  - #6 class size, round out the results.
- The top improvements the school could make are:
  - #1 curriculum for life-long learners;
  - #2 auditorium;
  - #3 new gym or track;
  - #4 school facelift.

88% of respondents said they would attend a non-school event if one of interest were offered.

- By wide margins, most survey takers agreed that the closure of Longbridge Road had a negative effect on travel times, emergency response times, where they made their purchases during the closure, and their ability to help others.
- The question of whether to develop a resource center where people could go to get help with a question or issue was an even split with 32% favoring or not favoring the creation of such a position. Thirty-five percent were unsure or need more information to make a choice.
- Human concerns in order of importance to respondents were:
  - #1 I have to leave my community for basic needs;
  - #2 worry about the state of our country;
  - #3 gun-violence;
  - #4 more to do for people my age, rounded out the top four.





However, there are hundreds of unmet needs/concerns in our community that require additional study.

- The vast majority of people have what they need to meet their spiritual needs.
- More than 50% of all respondents said they would volunteer to help others in need.
- Respondents were uniformly dissatisfied with retirement amenities available to them in Pentwater. Lack of easy access to everyday needs and taxi or bus service led the dissatisfaction with the availability of temporary or permanent assisted living facilities each having low approval ratings.
- Transportation improvements most favored by survey takers were:
  - #1 more parking;
  - #2 more bicycle facilities;
  - #3 improved roads;
  - #4 better pedestrian facilities; and,
  - #5 sidewalks.
- Nearly 67% of respondents said they were interested in the Schooner Program for soldiers and children suffering from PTSD and would consider volunteering to support the program.
- Respondents were evenly split on what to do about weed-remediation of Pentwater Lake. Verbatim comments may be helpful to lake managers.

• Age groups of respondents:

<u>Group</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Under 18	1	.19%
18-24	2	.38%
25-34	6	6.69%
35-44	35	13.96%
45-54	73	29.25%
55-64	153	36.33%
65-74	190	10.90%
75+	63	1.15%
17-54	117	22.4%
55+	406	77.6%
65+	253	48.4%

